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Castro meets black
American delegation
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CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

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Musical revival at NJPAC honors King

By Carl Chase
Contributing Writer

NEWARK — Musical Revival, a gospel celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., brought big names from gospel legends Shirley Caesar and Gissy Houston to Congressmen John Lewis and Donald Payne to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

The program inspired the kind of peaceful defiance for which Dr. King lived and died. More than 2,000 turned out on a cold, icy night of Jan. 13, cheered and often jumped to their feet.

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), a Civil Rights legend of the 1960s and author of "Walking with the Wind," gave the keynote speech.

He recalled visiting an aunt's shotgun shack when a violent storm began. "When one corner of the house lifted up from its foundation we went and held it down, and when the other pulled up we held that too. But we never left the house."

"Martin Luther King Jr. never left the house," he belted over hearty applause. "We are going to make Dr. Martin Luther King's dream a reality. Not tomorrow, next year. We must do it now."

An evangelist and North Carolina pastor in her own right, Caesar added prayer and contemporary flavors for a rich gospel blend. She sang church favorites "Hold My Male," "I Feel Like Praising Him" and "Jesus I Love to Call His Name," to the delight of the audience.

On the finale "You're Next in Line for a Miracle," Caesar ended up dancing in the aisle.

Spiritual music is making a contribution to King's famous dream of equality and true freedom, for all Americans, Caesar said in a backstage interview. "We have people working in other areas to get that dream alive," she said, adding there are pastors and other leaders working hard in the background.

"So it's not just gospel music, but

gospel music did put a big dent in helping to bring about that freedom, and freedom of the spirit."

Houston, the program's host, said liberation of the spirit is more critical than political issues. "I don't rely on any politician to tell me anything or give me anything. Just give me a chance."

The Jubilation Choir was born last September as a loose collection of 130 accomplished singers picked from 180 candidates just for the occasion. Hailing from nine New Jersey counties and New York City, it has become a tight group with bookings of its own, even sharing a Feb. 11 bill with superstar Queen Latifah at the Arts Center.

"I feel it was a gift from God, that he's blessed me," said Choir Director Stefanie R. Murdock. "It was specifically for tonight that we held auditions. But because of the overwhelming response, we've gone more than we anticipated."

The vast, multi-racial choir



(l-r) Rita Owens, Irvington teacher, Eunice Peterson, Debra Darby, Curtie Lang, Ervenia Johnson, Christine Gibbons, Bo Sifford

won ovations for a rousing "Peace, Be Still," and a stumping, standing ovation for "Glory Glory Hallelujah" led by the soaring, soaring soprano of soloist Lorraine Spence.

To sing in such a choir is "spiritually uplifting and motivating," said member Sharon Fudge, a mental health counselor at New Jersey hospital. "This work is most therapeutic."

An eight year-old spin on the Civil Rights Movement

"Walk together, children, and don't you grow weary" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

INGLEWOOD, CA. — Generation Next. What does the new millennium hold for them? While many are doubtful about America's future, one woman refuses to allow the hindrances that face young people to lead to discouragement. Sheyanne Webb-Christburg, whose childhood experience inspired the new "Wonderland of Disney" movie, "Selma, Lord, Selma" which aired on ABC-TV, Sunday, Jan. 17, 1999, one day before the nation paused to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., poses a challenge to today's youth and the nation.

In 1965, at eight years of age, Sheyanne or "Shey" became one of the many children to join the Civil Rights Movement. According to Shey, her courageous undertaking was sparked by nothing more than a childlike curiosity. "Something different was happening in my neighborhood and it caught my attention and that was blacks and whites mingling together," Shey remembers. "So when I saw blacks and whites going into Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, I followed."

This detour, which caused her to be late for school roused an even greater curiosity. "Initially, I didn't understand what was going on, except that some great man was coming to town and I wanted to know who he was."

Shey couldn't wait to discuss this with her parents, but her excitement was soon thwarted by



Standing from left to right is Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King and Former President John F. Kennedy

their response. "I thought they were mad. This led me to their expression was fright. This led me to ask more questions, but my parents couldn't answer."

A few days later she and her best friend Rachel West met Dr. King and her encounter with the man she described as simply "everyday people" fueled her desire to be involved, despite the protests of her parents and even her teachers.

Blacks' participation in the movement meant loss of their jobs, homes and even lives. And while, Shey considers her actions mere disobedience, her courageous determination to participate in what became one of the most historic occurrences during the Civil Rights Movement persuaded both parents and teachers alike to join.

March 7, 1965, in Selma is infamously known as "Bloody Sunday."

Alabama Governor George Wallace vehemently protested any march from Selma to Montgomery. Yet the impending freedom fighters gathered that morning at Brown Chapel Church and began to march. As they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were met by state troopers and beatings. Starting out that morning, Sheyanne Webb for the first time knew fear. "We were given special instructions and reminded of non-violence. You could feel the fear, but also more importantly the determination," Sheyanne recalls. "I didn't have permission to march, but I left my parents a note that said I needed to do this for them."

The fear that pervaded her parents, Shey, herself faced that day. "When I got to that bridge my heart beat faster and when the marchers reached the bottom there was some conversation. All of a sudden tear gas exploded and people were beaten to the ground. I started running and as I reached downtown, Hosea Williams (who led the march) picked me up with my feet still galloping in his arms, but he wasn't running fast enough."

I told him to put me down. I finally reached home and ran up to my room and after I settled down, that night I wrote my funeral." Shey wrote her funeral because, although she now feared for her life, she was firm in her conviction to the movement. This grim experience only proved to be a catalyst for the young freedom fighter, as was the case throughout the movement.

Today, we hear of young kids like Shey who write their obituaries because they do not expect to see adulthood. But unlike Shey, their death is not for a righteous cause but a senseless one. For reasons like this Shey has dedicated her life to youth advocacy. Her program in Montgomery, AL, "Keep Productions" encourages self-esteem and awareness. She hopes to share with kids that special gift that Dr. King shared with her and challenges this great nation to do the same. "I don't think that people should look for another Dr. King, but for another leader who can mobilize us and not just give speeches."

Virtual family gathering for African Americans

ATLANTA — BlackFamilies.com, the first and only comprehensive web site dedicated to African-American families, will satisfy the appetites of seven million African-American adults looking to enhance their family lives by serving up a smorgasbord of useful content and resources.

"We are excited to pioneer this dynamic initiative providing African Americans with the content and resources they want and need on family-related topics," said Peter Winter, president of Cox Interactive Media.

"BlackFamilies.com addresses the biggest concerns among African-American families today saving time, saving money and building stronger family units. The response to this concept-in-test has been overwhelming and Cox is excited and committed to developing the premier site for African-Americans interested in building stronger families."

Scheduled to launch Jan. 18, 1999, and designed as an empowering resource for African-American adults, BlackFamilies.com is a "virtual" home where users, known as "relatives," will have the opportunity to learn and interact with others on relevant, family-related matters.

Serving up a platter of African-American family-focused issues, expert advice and interactive community capabilities, BlackFamilies.com is the perfect recipe for users looking for increased family fulfillment.

"There are a variety of sites for African-Americans focusing on everything from entertainment and sports to networking, but none that focuses on African-American families," said John Pembroke, brand manager of BlackFamilies.com. For most African-Americans, family is top priority in their lives.

BlackFamilies.com understands the importance of the family unit and seeks to enhance and enrich that unit."

'Clean needles save lives!'

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

TRENTON — Does distributing clean needles to drug users encourage the use of drugs? The hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Statehouse in Trenton on Tuesday, January 19th, begged to differ. An hour before Gov. Christine Whitman announced tax breaks for homeowners in her State of the State address, demonstrators demanded more drug treatment and a legal syringe exchange program for N.J. They urged Whitman to declare a public health emergency in the state.

A seven-year heroin addict from Philadelphia, stated the importance of a clean needle exchange program to lead the pathway to restoration and to the prevention of AIDS/HIV from sharing needles. Earl Driscoll began his road to recovery 13-months ago in Philadelphia where he is now a member of ACT UP/AIDS Coalition (to unleash power) and a volunteer for Prevention Point Philadelphia.

"Dead addicts don't recover," stated Driscoll. "Needle exchange has allowed me the opportunity to learn how to live without the use of

drugs. It costs less than eight cents to provide a sterile needle and costs no more than \$195,000 to treat a person with AIDS."

Unfortunately, everyone did not have that opportunity. Ron Stuart, who traveled from Asbury Park to attend the protest, is HIV positive and has been recovering for the last seven years. "It's time for Gov. Whitman and the federal government to wake up," said Stuart. "We're not encouraging the use of drugs. It's for people who live with drugs. I have a 3-year-old nephew in my life that I raise. I want these things to be a policy because HIV and AIDS are going to be a part of his life."

Stuart stated that the governor needs to listen to the people and the community needs to come to the aid of the people.

The organizers of the protest, the New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition (NJHRC), also released a startling list of statistics regarding the urgency of a clean syringe exchange program: Jersey City and Newark were placed on the top ten list of U.S. cities with the highest rate of AIDS per capita. New Jersey has the third highest rate of injection-related HIV in the US.

Among those who inject drugs, African-Americans are four times as likely as whites to have AIDS and Latinos are one and one-half times as likely as whites to have AIDS. New Jersey is the only state in the northeast US without legal provisions for syringe exchange. Gisella Pemberton, Vice Pres. of NJHRC, stated the relief efforts of the government. "We demand to know why the budget for the department of corrections is almost three times that of the department of health," stated Pemberton, "and why there are only 8,000 treatment slots for the 46,000 injection drug users in New Jersey, but probably a bed in jail for all of them."

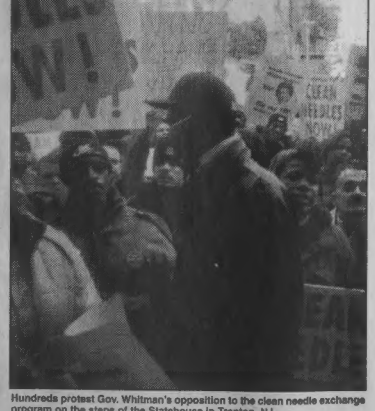
A bed in jail was definitely reserved for Ron Hayes, with the word "loser," written on his folder. He began shooting dope in 1965, and continued this lifestyle for 25 years until it finally landed him a spot in New Jersey prisons for 35 years. Hayes is now a graduate student with a 3.95 grade point average and the director of a substance abuse program he was once addicted to.

"I was an addict untreated," stated Hayes. "Now we're talking harm reduction. I spent fifteen

years in prison. They got \$40,000 a year for me, 15 times 40 is \$600,000, not one time did they ever say, 'Ron would you like to see a substance abuse counselor?' But I'm not designed for me to get better."

One by one, speakers approached the podium and shared their personal strife with the crowd who was bearing the brist, January weather. As rain drops fell scattered on the protesters that didn't dampen their mood. They shouted in English and Spanish, "Clean Needles! Clean Needles!" and at one point, "Christine Whitman is a murderer."

The protest was purposely organized prior to the State of the State address so New Jerseyans could see that although some things may be looking up for the state there is still an existing health crisis that is not going away. The demonstrators noted many medical and political organizations who support the proposition of a legal syringe exchange program to save lives. They ended the rally with a message that if these groups can't save the people's words and prevent plan then why can't Gov. Whitman?



Hundreds protest Gov. Whitman's opposition to the clean needle exchange program on the steps of the Statehouse in Trenton, NJ.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

HEMPSTEAD — Hofstra University college will hold their University College Open House where they will discuss activities, courses, trips and programs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Student Center Dining Room East. (516) 463-5993.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University presents a discussion on women and man returning to school beginning at 12 p.m. (201) 300-3166.

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Museum presents an exhibit on the Holocaust entitled Witness and Legacy beginning at 9 a.m. (609) 292-6454.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society presents a series on New Jersey Breweries with featured speaker, Tim Schaefer, beginning at 12 p.m. (973) 596-6590.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

MORRISTOWN — The Morris County Chamber of Commerce will present a morning seminar for Human Resource professionals at the Morris County Chamber office beginning at 7:30 a.m. (973) 538-3882.

MAHWAH — Campgaw Mountain Ski Area will offer a snowboard demonstration for first timers beginning at 5 p.m. (201) 327-7800.

SUMMIT — Kent Place School will hold an open house of its middle and pre-kindergarten program beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 273-0900.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

NEWARK — New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents a classical concert with special guest Wagner Der Fingst Festival beginning at 8 p.m. 1-800-255-3476.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will hold a food drive serving soup and sandwiches to senior citizens beginning at 12 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

NEWARK — Hooley for Children program: Sharon McGruder, from the McCarter Theatre shares the richness of the African American Culture beginning at 12 p.m. (973) 733-7798.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

SOMERSET — Single Faces Inc. will hold a singles function at McATEERS beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 468-2522.

JERSEY CITY

New Jersey City University presents a concert featuring the school's orchestra beginning at the Margaret Williams Theater beginning at 5 p.m. (201) 200-3425.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

CLARK — Clark Public Library presents a book discussion on the novel One True Thing beginning at 7 p.m. (732) 388-5999.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

STONE HARBOR — The Westland Institute presents a discussion on the state of the countries national parks beginning at 12:30 p.m. (609) 368-1211.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

CLARK — The Clark Public Library will hold a broad of trustees meeting at the Avera Community Room of the Clark Public Library beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 388-5999.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

STONE HARBOR — Westland Institute presents a conference on the state of our drinking water beginning at 12:30 p.m. (609) 368-1211.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will hold a discussion on economic development in the city beginning at 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Mother's Center of Central New Jersey presents a workshop on preschools at the Scotch Plains Public Library beginning at 8 p.m. (908) 322-7863.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

JAMESBURG — Singles Faces Inc. presents a singles function at Forsgate Country Club beginning at 9 p.m. (732) 747-0200.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center will hold a birthday party for those born in January beginning at 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University will offer non-credit courses in Spanish beginning at 10 a.m. (201) 200-3425.

WESTFIELD — The Washington Rock Girl Scouts and Barnes & Noble presents a book fair at the Barnes & Noble store in Springfield beginning at 11 a.m. (908) 235-3236.

WISOMMM celebrates Kwanzaa



(L-R) Aylo Mc Millan, co-host, Fredrica Bay, who received an award and host Ayisha Jamal at the 1st Kwanzaa celebration at the "Women in Support of the Million Man March," mansion. Kwame Toure Freedom Fighter awards were given to community activists during the affair.

"La Posada," Mexican holiday comes to Plainfield



Second-grade teacher Anne Lofredo gives last-minute instructions to Oak Knoll School 2nd-graders Juliette (center) and John Orsini (right) of Plainfield as they prepare to reenact "La Posada," a Christmas tradition of Mexico. Students, dressed in Mexican attire, sang carols as they paraded down the hallways. John posed as Joseph and another student played Mary as they knelt on each graded classroom floor, and asked if there was room at the Inn. After being turned away, "Mary and Joseph," were joined by a growing crowd of first-graders and kindergartners who followed them to the school's chapel. The tradition of "La Posada," dates back to Mexico's Colonial period.

Freeholders honor long-time Monmouth County employees



(L-R) Bessie B. Stephens and Sonda Little, Division of Social Services, and Rev. Dr. Vernon Matthews were among 116 Monmouth County Employees honored by Freeholder Dr. Harry Larsson, Jr. at a dinner.

"American Legacy," names new members



Audrey Peterson, named the new editor of "American Legacy," the new quarterly magazine celebrating African-American history and culture. Alpha Satterwhite joined "American Legacy" as the associate editor.

PUBLIC NOTICE Property Owners of Newark

You are facing immediate increase in property taxes from revaluation - unless the State Assembly acts now!

We must prevent these major immediate property tax increases in Newark by attending these two crucial events.

Tax Revaluation Information Meeting
January 20th - Commencing at 7:00 PM
Newark City Council Chamber

The Newark Municipal Council, in its effort to ease major property tax increases, has supported Assembly Bill A-2669, which will mandate a five year phase-in period for tax revaluation. This bill, A-2669, will prevent immediate tax revaluation which will be detrimental to the neighborhoods of Newark.

Consultants (Lobbyist, Legal and Fiscal) will be available to answer question related to Revaluation.

Tax Revaluation Press Conference and Rally
January 28th - 11:00 AM
State Assembly Chamber in Trenton

Delegates to the Governor and the State Legislature must Newark needs protection from immediate property tax increases. Voice your support for Assembly Bill A-2669 which would permit the City to institute a 5 year phase-in of tax revaluation.

By Direction of the Municipal Council Donald Bishop, President	
Augusta Amador Council Member - East Ward	Gayle Chaney-Jenkins Council Member-at-Large
Gary Booker Council Member - Central Ward	Laila Quintana Council Member-at-Large
Manie Bridgforth Council Member - West Ward	Donald K. Tucker Council Member-at-Large
Anthony Carrio Council Member - North Ward	Bessie Walker Council Member-at-Large

Robert P. Marasco, Clerk of the Municipal Council
Newark, NJ

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NAACP member receives 1999 Human Rights Award



Elaine C. Harrington, Pres. of New Jersey State Conference of NAACP, has been selected to receive the 1999 Human Rights Awards. The Piasale County Community College professor and former administrator is a product of Tuskegee Alabama.

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• crown	600.00	300.00
• gluing/viscous (per tooth)	45.00	22.50
• complete denture	725.00	362.50
• simple extraction	50.00	25.00

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Nation Briefs

LAWEYERS FOR DRAGGING DEATH SUSPECT WANT OFF THE CASE

JASPER, Texas (AP) — Attorneys for one of three men accused of dragging a black man to his death have asked to be taken off the case because his client has "gone missing and been uncooperative."

C. Haden Brink and his co-counsel, Brock Jones Jr., filed a motion asking to withdraw from the case after their client, William J. King, refused to attend a pretrial hearing. The judge could have forced King to attend but declined to do so.

King, 24, is one of three ex-convicts facing capital murder charges in the June dragging death of James Byrd Jr. Byrd was beaten, chained to a pickup and dragged to his death along a rural road near Jasper. The three defendants are accused of killing the 49-year-old man because he was black.

King's trial is scheduled for Jan. 25. It was unclear whether the trial would be delayed.

TUTU: ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS CAN ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION

JERUSALEM (AP) — South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu said that Israel and the Palestinians can achieve reconciliation if their leaders are prepared to take risks.

Tutu, who received the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the struggle against the apartheid regime in his native South Africa, was speaking at Jerusalem's Yafar Institute for Social Conflict.

He told the gathering that many people had said the regime of violence against non-white citizens could not be overturned without a bloodbath, yet the people of South Africa had done it, and achieved reconciliation.

"So if it could happen to us it can happen anywhere," he said. "Can anyone tell me why it cannot happen here?"

However this could only be achieved if leaders on both sides are prepared to take risks, he said, to face the truth and to say they are sorry.

Welcoming the Archbishop, the institute's director Benjamin Pogrow described him as "a moral compass."

PATAKI ANNOUNCES \$6.8 MILLION IN RECYCLING AWARDS

NEW YORK — Governor George E. Pataki announced Empire State Development's (ESD) Recycling Investment Program awards for Feb. 1999. The awards, totaling more than \$6.8 million, will aid recycling initiatives across the state and create 250 new jobs.

"New York businesses are finding that combining economic growth with environmental safety is not only good for people and communities, but their bottom-line as well," Pataki said. "I commend these award-winning organizations for their commitment to improving the environment and creating new jobs for New Yorkers."

The Recycling Investment Program invests appropriations from the Environmental Protection Fund as part of the state's commitment to environmental quality. The program is administered by Empire State Development's Office of Recycling Market Development.

RWANDAN JUSTICE MINISTER RESIGNS, LEAVES COUNTRY

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Rwandan Justice Minister has resigned and left the country for North Carolina. Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigamba said.

In his resignation letter, Faustin Ntaziyayo, a Hutu, said he left for North Carolina to "pursue his studies." He was the second Hutu minister to resign from the Tutsi-controlled government since November.

More than 500,000 minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 1994 by Hutu soldiers and militias. Tutsi-led rebels won power in July 1994, stopped the massacres and formed a government of national unity comprising both Hutus and Tutsis.

Recently, Tutsi survivor groups have alleged Ntaziyayo may have deliberately misplaced the files of Hutus imprisoned on genocide charges in order to protect them.

"I provided the best of myself and I hope to have contributed to the restoration of social peace in our country, even though the road to go is still long," Ntaziyayo said in his letter.

By Karin Davies

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — At a briefly decorated orphanage, Jewish infants with rumpled noses peer through crib bars, while healthier children swoop down slides outside in the sunshine.

They are part of the world's fastest-growing population of orphans and among the most unwanted — children who have lost their parents to AIDS-infected sweeping sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly 8 million African children

have been orphaned by AIDS, and at least 1 million children are infected with the AIDS virus, the United Nations says.

Few African children are adopted by foreigners, largely because extended families have traditionally taken in orphans. But AIDS has changed that tradition.

With many more orphans — and fewer working-age adults to support them — relatives have become emotionally and financially overburdened. Often, AIDS-infected children are abandoned.

Some of these children end up at Nyanabai Hospice, a cheerful, 53-bed nursing home in Karen, a Nairobi suburb.

Rebecca Maisha Friedlander, now 3, is one of the lucky ones.

Given up at birth by her AIDS-infected mother, Rebecca was adopted by a Kenyan family. But when she was 3 months old, she developed bronchial pneumonia and tested positive for the AIDS virus. Her adoptive family left her at Nyanabai.

Three months later, Americans Eric

Goldscheider and Debbi Friedlander, temporarily living in Kenya, visited Nyanabai and spotted Rebecca and her adoptive family.

"We took her for the weekend, and that was it. There was a definite spark, a definite connection," Goldscheider said from his home in Amherst, Mass.

Assured Rebecca no longer tested positive for the AIDS virus as she shed her mother's antibodies, the couple decided to adopt her.

Then their tests gave a positive virus reading. Still, the couple chose to

go ahead, even if it meant "having to grieve the early death of a loved child," Goldscheider said.

The family received a U.S. visa to take Rebecca home. Best of all, later tests showed she was free of the AIDS virus.

Rebecca's parents gave her a new middle name of Maisha, which means "life" in Swahili.

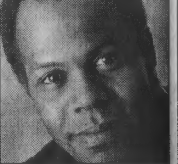
"It was what we called her now," Goldscheider said. "Most people who meet her would agree that she is certainly full of life."

Castro meets black American delegation

By John Rice

HAVANA (AP) — A delegation of prominent black Americans met with Fidel Castro and denounced the U.S. embargo of the communist island, calling it especially hard on people of African descent.

"American policies, 40 years in application, have hurt ordinary men, women and children in Cuba, and Afro-Cubans particularly, and it's simply unacceptable," said Randall Robinson, president of the TransAfrica Forum, a Washington-based group that pushes U.S. policy toward African and Caribbean states.



Actor Danny Glover is a member of the TransAfrica delegation.

Meanwhile, Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said he held talks with Castro dealing with issues ranging from human rights to improving Canadian-Cuban trade.

Axworthy told reporters later that he mentioned the case of four still-imprisoned Cuban dissidents whose Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien had sought during an April visit to Cuba.

But the focus appeared to be on cooperation rather than conflict with the two nations agreeing to increase anti-drug cooperation and to allow an exchange of prisoners so that inmates could serve time in their home country.

Top politician vows to tackle high crime and poverty

By Andrew Selaksy

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The man likely to be South Africa's next president blamed the nation's high crime and poverty rates on its former white rulers, setting the tone for the country's second free elections.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki also vowed to divert more benefits from "those better placed" to formerly disenfranchised blacks.

"We will have to speed up the process towards the elimination of this blight (crime and poverty) that is so visible in all spheres of life in our country," Mbeki declared.

Mbeki, expected to succeed the retiring Nelson Mandela as president after the elections, spoke in Cape Town amid growing expectations that his government will do more to right the wrongs of the past. No date has been set for the elections, to be held around mid-year.

South Africa's soaring crime rate. "The predatory and anti-human values nurtured during this period and imposed on society lie at the base of much that is wrong in our country today, including the high levels of crime," he said.

Meanwhile, the former National Party, the white-led party that ruled South Africa under apartheid, announced Friday it was registering for the election under its new name, the New National Party.

Mbeki derided such moves as subterfuge.

"The leopard has not changed its spots," he said. "Even when it dyes these spots in the colors of the (liberation) movement, time soon wears out the false colors."

He asserted that opposition parties "are opposed to the fundamental transformation of our country into a non-racial and non-sexist democracy."

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"It was really an opportunity to maintain a dialogue, an exchange," Axworthy said.

Axworthy said the U.S. announcement this week easing a few of the country's sanctions against Cuba seemed to propose "some degree of constructive engagement," a policy that Canada has advocated in opposition to the traditional U.S. policy of isolating Cuba.

"We think there is a certain trend line in the United States toward a more realistic attitude," he said.

Axworthy's visit seemed far less controversial than his 1997 trip to Cuba, which was criticized by Sen.

"Whatever kind of race problem still exists in Cuba is dwarfed by the race problem that we have to contend with in the United States," Robinson said.

Robinson called the embargo itself "unjust, unfair and cruel" and noted that even former Republican secretaries of state recently called for a reassessment of Cuba policy.

"I think forces are gathering on all sides," against the embargo "because the American people can see the essential silliness of this policy that has up until now been controlled by a small group of white, wealthy Cubans who fled to Miami 40 years ago."

After Mandela won the nation's first all-race elections in 1994, an election that marked the end of apartheid — he preached reconciliation and was leery of taking from whites and giving to non-whites.

But now, more than half of South Africa's 40 million people still don't have running water in their homes; one-quarter earn as little as \$8 a

month, and only one in 20 black men earn more than \$615 per month. Two in three white men earn that much.

In a speech at the Cape Town Civic Centre marking the 87th anniversary of the founding of the ruling African National Congress, Mbeki foreshadowed a changed policy.

"To tackle this legacy we require a sustained national effort in which those better placed will, even in their selfish interest, have to sacrifice a little in order to help uplift the millions who remain the black disadvantaged," Mbeki said.

To change the system, Mbeki could impose heavier taxes on the wealthy and introduce more stringent affirmative action. Under a new law, the work forces of large and medium-sized companies must reflect the diversity of South Africa's population, but are not bound by a set quota system.

Mbeki also blamed apartheid for

South Africa's soaring crime rate.

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Recognizing the 100 Most Influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

In nominating a personality for the award, you must identify yourself and give a phone number where you can be reached. The Fourth Annual 100 Most Influential Awards Gala will be held on Thursday, May 8, 1999.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. The deadline is January 29, 1999

Nominee's name _____
Address _____
Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____ Fax _____

Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

Your name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How do you know this person _____

Sent to: City News 100, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or text to (908) 753-1038

Nominee Categories — Please check one category:
☐ Self Right ☐ Media Journalism ☐
☐ Community Development ☐ Arts & Culture ☐
☐ Corporate/Community Involvement ☐ Religion ☐
☐ Business Development ☐ Health, Science & Technology ☐
☐ Education ☐ Entertainment & Sports ☐
☐ Minority Business Enterprise ☐ Politics, Law & Government ☐

Individualization not Assimilation

"The history of the American Negro is the history of struggle - this longing to attain self-conscious manhood, to merge his double self into a better and truer self. In this merger he wishes neither of the older selves to be lost. He would not be African-American, for America has too much to teach the world and Africa. He would not bleed his Negro blood in a flood of white Americanism, for he knows that Negro blood has a message for the world. He simply wishes to make it possible for a man to be both a Negro and an American."

W.E.B. DuBois
Our great scholar leader and political activist, W.E.B. DuBois analyzed the concept of duality in America in "The Souls of Black Folk." In a time when society is attempting to deal with the race crisis in America, we must acknowledge the power of culture. One's traditions and customs create individuality. This army of individuality helps make America the great, culturally diverse nation that it is.

Every experience and belief you have helps make you who you are. Therefore, being American does not mean one has to assimilate into a generic melting pot and produce clones of a typical, "Christian, Caucasian male."

You should take pride in where the roots of your ancestors lie and the branches of centuries of traditions, ranging from religion to dress to spirituality to music to the spices in the food you eat.

Not only should you take pride in this, but you should feel free to express your individuality with others.

Once we deal with our own personal insecurities regarding our ethnicity we can take the time to stand up towards others who are taking advantage of our ethnicity. We can then take a step towards erasing our own ignorance and fear of each other's differences. We can maintain our individuality because we all have something to teach, just as we all have something that we can learn from others.

Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that one day we could all live in this country hand in hand, as brothers and sisters, striving to attain one goal: equality and justice for all, regardless of race, creed or color. Accepting and expressing our own cultural lives regardless of what class society you may fall in and being willing to learn from one another is the only way to truly attain the goals of King and closer to the goals of DuBois. So open your minds and your hearts to your own culture and to others.

Barbara beat's: Underneath the sex, lies and videotapes of the Clinton scandal

By Barbara Reynolds

(NNPA) — Don't be fooled by the surface stuff of sex, lies and videotapes in the daily soap opera around President Clinton.

Underneath the drama is a serious and cynical report of the same elitist forces that drove the presidential impeachment process against President Johnson in 1968. They are still hard at work some 30 years later. The mean-spirited agenda of the conservative Republicans means taking power away from the people at any cost, even if it means undercutting the commander-in-chief in the midst of military conflict and going against the will of the voting public.

Several members of Congress are advancing the theme that today's power grab resembles that of 1968. Just shy your eyes and ears. Which would have given you the fat cat power grabbers and the southern Democrats and those who are trying to include others into the White House.

White folks are the perfect Union are the Republicans. Then, Lincoln was referred to as the Black president just as today's white, neo-Monroe is championing Clinton as the first "Black president." Today's Republicans were the conservative Democrats of 130 years ago.

Lincoln fought the Civil War to preserve the union and to end slavery. He defeated the southern slave states at a cost of more than 600,000 lives and was prepared to reconstruct the nation with a "Big Government" Republican program of economic inclusion and political enfranchisement.

Johnson was not a member of the Radical Republicans. He was a white man who was put on the ticket with Lincoln for his assistance. When Johnson became president, he fought the Radical Republicans' goal of racial equality. The latter was to be achieved by imposing strict political, legal and constitutional requirements on former Confederate states before they would be allowed to rejoin the Union on an equal basis with the other states.

So, Johnson vetoed major Reconstruction laws passed by the Republican Congress such as the very important Freedmen's Bureau bill, which would have given Blacks the much-promised 40 acres and a mule. He also vetoed bills that he viewed as too punitive against the white owners, who were receiving military rule over the southern states.

The Republicans were so angry at Johnson that they would have impeached him for "stepping on

The direction of the Kwanzaa movement

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

The Kwanzaa Movement that was initiated by the US Organization in Los Angeles, California in 1966 has become a successful, popular movement that most African people in America identify with in some way.

Kwanzaa grew out of the 1960's Black Power explosion and the leadership that responded to the Kwanzaa concept was the late Dr. Maulana Karenga, founder of the Umoja and African Nationalist forces in key cities throughout America.

In the beginning years, many people in the African-American community were very hesitant to support the idea of Kwanzaa celebrations. Many people thought it was an effort to start a new religion. Others thought it was aimed at replacing Christmas, and still others rejected the idea that Kwanzaa was rooted in the movement to affirm the African-American identity in America that is connected to African culture throughout the world.

During those early years, the arguments and against Kwanzaa in the African community in America were very intense. However, in the face of much criticism a small vanguard group of African-American leaders, with much dedication to bring the concept of Kwanzaa before the community. They did this by sponsoring community events to celebrate Kwanzaa through the US Organization in Los Angeles, California; SHAPE Center in Houston, Texas; The Institute of Positive Education and

Confederation of Pan African Organizations in Chicago, Illinois; and the East African Organization in New York. In the early period of the Kwanzaa Movement, other cities, under Pan African/Nationalist leadership, began to sponsor and celebrate Kwanzaa in Atlanta, Newark, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Newark, Philadelphia, Youngstown, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Washington, D.C., and many other cities throughout the country.

As the founder of Kwanzaa, Dr. Maulana Karenga has written, "In the 60's, the Black Movement after 1965 was defined by its lack of unity. It stressed the rescue and reconstruction of ourselves and our culture, redefinition of ourselves and our culture, restructuring of the goals and purpose of our struggle for liberation and a higher African human life based on an Africanistic model."

In this connection, "Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce the Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles)." The Nguzo Saba were the principles that the moral minimum set of African values that African Americans needed in order to become a strong, unified community, and culture to become a people.

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1998 was the year of the hip hop criminal

By Dave 'Davey D' Cooks

I hope '99 doesn't continue what seems to be a sad trend within hip hop.

I saw some of our biggest and brightest stars arrested for having weapons illegally. This adds to the sad statistic that 1/4th of African Americans are under some sort of control by the U.S. justice system. It also sends a strong message to young impressionable fans that their actions can have serious consequences.

In the early last year Coolio was arrested for having a loaded gun in the back seat of his car and a "roach" (the butt of a joint). Meanwhile, last month, Mykita was arrested in Louisiana for having a gun and smoking weed in his car.

In the last artist to join this elite group is Busta Rhymes. Recently he was pulled over in his Mercedes by New York City police for "driving erratically." When police searched the car they found a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic along with some weed. Rhymes and his business partner were arrested and released on bail.

His schedule was so good on Jan. 28 on weapons charges. Rhymes' situation has seemingly become so commonplace in hip hop that people don't even think about it when hearing such reports. That's what makes it so sad. Some say what happened to him goes on everyday in Black America, so why the hell are our stars come from the hood, can we honestly expect them to drop their ghetto ways overnight? They ask.

They're content that with all the drama surrounding hip hop artists, it's extremely important for them to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves. One of the ways to do this is to carry a gun.

Say what you will, but the effects of such high profile stars being arrested and going to jail send a strong signal to everyone. It tells young fans who wanna emulate these guys that being in trouble is part of the routine. It also sends a strong message to mainstream society that Black folks no matter how visible and how famous - are still prone to being criminals. Even sadder than that - these reports being arrested is the authenticity that these acts bring to people's minds. The arrested artist is just a kid from the hood who is keeping real.

Last year the list of artists getting into trouble was a long one. In fact, one would think that after the untimely

A New Year's resolution

By Marian Wright Edelman

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? If so, have you kept them? There's one resolution I hope you will make, and when all the hopes of dieting and intentions to save money have come to nothing, pray this one will become a way of life for you and your family. This is as easy as it is crucial: you your seat belt and insist that your children do the same.

There are so many things we do all year to keep our children safe, and sometimes it's difficult to think of everything. But one of the simplest and most important things you can do for each one of your children is to ensure they buckle their seat belts every time they get in a car. It doesn't matter how you're just going down the road. You don't matter how much of a hurry you might be in, or how exhausted or irritable the children might be. Just never shift the car into gear until you're made sure everyone is buckled up, and never allow your child to ride with anyone who doesn't do this the way.

Traffic crashes are the number one cause of African American children's deaths. In fact, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has shown that 12 minutes someone is killed. But here is a happy statistic: it is estimated that seat belt use saves 9,500 lives this year.

Think about it. That's about 20 people who are alive today just because they took a minute to buckle up before they started off.

Think about the most likely event in an automobile crash is that a passenger will be ejected from the car. In 1995's last year for which there are statistics, only 2 out of 100 people who were ejected survived. Think about it. That's about 20 people who are alive today just because they took a minute to buckle up before they started off.

Although there are child safety seats in every state except New Hampshire that require children to be restrained, there are still many children dying every year. One of the best ways to get adults and children to buckle up is

The political unfitness of Trent Lott

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

When once asked about desegregation in his home state of Mississippi, Republican Senate Majority leader Trent Lott said, "It just happened one day, and we moved on." While many

thought that Lott's response did move on, the question is did Lott.

The one-time congressional aide to staunch segregationist Congressman William Colmer has emerged as the major player in the new Republican's drive to dump Clinton. He has badgered and cajoled the Senate to bring the impeachment charges against Clinton to a speedy trial. He has lectured Democrats that they should be offended by Clinton's conduct.

Yet, Lott may be more than just a Republican conservative indignant at Clinton's moral misbehavior. He may be a member of a southern politician who has cozzied up to race batters and segregationists. The list of Lott's dubious political ties and actions call into serious question his political and moral fitness to lead Clinton's impeachment.

The list of his close ties includes the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC), this updated version of the old Citizens' Council, and a racist organization that has cozzied up to race batters and segregationists. The list of Lott's dubious political ties and actions call into serious question his political and moral fitness to lead Clinton's impeachment.

When asked by the media about his membership in the CCC, Lott's response was "I've never heard of it." When pressed further he claimed that the speeches may have been given years ago when they were made by the Citizens' Council. He gave the speeches to the CCC national conference in 1992 and the Black and White Council in 1995. He was a

to enact and enforce seat belt laws. These laws allow law enforcement officers to stop cars and fine drivers if occupants are not buckled up. Many states only allow law enforcement officers to give fines only if drivers are stopped for other violations and the officer observes seat belts are not used in use. But when police are allowed to stop a driver if they've done nothing wrong but forgot to use seat belts and demand their passengers to buckle up, it's not the people use belts and more lives are saved.

The laws that allow law enforcement officials to stop vehicles only because they are not wearing seat belts are called primary seat belt enforcement laws. In July 1997, Washington, D.C. adopted the strongest seat belt seat belt enforcement law in the country. As a result, seat belt use increased in the nation's capital by 16 percent in one year.

Several states have primary seat belt enforcement laws, including California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Texas. If your state isn't listed here, please write or call your state legislators and urge them to pass a law that says - children's and adults' - can be saved.

There are so many dangers that threaten children today. Violence in our homes, sexual abuse, and child neglect can be found in every city, suburb, and rural area of our nation. Inadequate health care can keep children from getting in tragedy preventable deaths. Sometimes parents understandably feel frightened and helpless, and believe they can do it on their own. But their children will survive to adulthood.

Isn't it wonderful to be reminded of something we can control - something we can change? Isn't it wonderful to know as possible? Won't you join me in this campaign to keep our children alive, and encourage your relatives, friends, and neighbors to do the same. Let's make 1999 the year everyone buckles up!

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and a working committee member of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC). In 1998, BCCC celebrated 10 years of advocacy service, leadership to build a movement to Leave No Child Behind.

senator both years. When the butt was pointed out to him he refused to comment.

There may be no need to Lott's involvement with this group then is known, if so, he needs to come clean with the public. But, even if he doesn't, his past statements and actions show that he has often marched in step with the bitterest of enemies of civil rights, and civil liberties and those who have Clinton for supporting those issues.

He has supported tax breaks for Bob Jones University and other segregated schools, and he has called for the impeachment of David Satcher, Clinton's nominees for Surgeon General and both African Americans, until.

In the Senate, he declined to cosponsor the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1997 and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 1998. The Human Rights Campaign, a special advocacy group that monitors congressional legislation, has given Lott a rating the last three years for his votes on civil rights and human rights legislation.

The Southern House Republicans shoved through impeachment as part of their grand strategy to roll back civil rights, further gut social programs and seize the White House in 2000. Lott is determined to finish his job in the Senate by convicting Clinton, or failing that, ramming through a crippling censure resolution to discredit him and paralyze the Democratic presidential campaign next year.

Lott has dined his political hands by caving with race baiting groups such as the CCC. This hardly makes him fit to debate and vote on the conviction of Clinton. We should let him know that. E-mail him at: senatorlott@lotsonate.gov; (202) 224-2262 or (202) 224-2263.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Crisis in Black and Black." e-mail: chris344@aol.com

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CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

CAMDEN — The U.S. Small Business Administration sponsors a workshop on creating your business plan, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Camden County College, (908) 538-1817 ext. 3182.

ELIZABETH — Pre-registration, along with a \$5.00 fee is required by Jan. 28 to attend the upcoming workshop, February 4th at the Elizabeth Public Library from 8:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Show Me the Money" workshop will teach grantseekers multiple ways to identify and research their best potential funding. For registration, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, (908) 556-2550.

CRANFORD — Discover the rationale behind effective resume writing and how you can work to your advantage. Become familiar with the dos and don'ts of good editing practices, input and professional printing strategies. This course will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Union County College, Cranford Campus. To register, call (908) 709-7600.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21
EDISON — Somerset County Chamber of Commerce holds a Small Business Council Breakfast, three professionals will discuss the latest developments in the Year 2000 battle, breakfast at 8:00 a.m. sharp and networking at 9:00 a.m. (908) 725-1552.

IRVINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration and Rutgers Center for Small Business Development is sponsoring a free SBA Community Assistance Seminar from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Irvington Senior Citizen Center. SBA loan applications will be discussed along with business counseling programs. To register, call (973) 353-5950.

Glenda Taylor shares the secrets of success

By WAYNE EDWARDS

NEW YORK, NY — In New York City's government and education circles, the name Glenda Taylor, long been held in high esteem. Now Taylor, best known for her work with non-profit human service providers, is set to share her successful philosophy of empowerment with the national landscape via her first book project, aptly-titled *The Secrets of Success: Quotations by African-Americans*.

Taylor, who has been called a visionary by the New York Daily Challenge, says she edited the book as her contribution to the further uplifting and empowerment of African-Americans. "For too long our history has focused on the pain of the struggle, not the survival. Both stories need to be told. The techniques and the goals need to be told. They are valuable lessons."

To that end, "The Secrets of Success" serves up motivating quotes from a wide variety of successful black people such as Muhammad Ali, Oprah Winfrey, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Constance Baker Motley and others. Taylor even included quotes from Les Brown, Iyanla Vanzant and Dennis Kimbro, all of whom have authored or edited their own motivational books for African-Americans. "I don't see us as competing with each other," says Taylor, "because you can never have too much positive energy out there. Besides, our books, though dealing with similar themes, are all very different. My book, for example, offers vitamins for the soul. It has the wisdom of everyone from Frederick Douglass to L.L. Cool J. And it's easy to read. Anyone can memorize these quotations and use them as affirmations."

Praise for "The Secrets of Success," has been effusive. And it's no small wonder, considering you'd be hard pressed to cite a book with more powerful quotes from such a broad range of well respected and highly regarded black luminaries. The book has truly encapsulated the strength and genius that Glenda Taylor has come to personify.

Lila Richardson, Esq., of the Magic Johnson Management Group says, "the various ideologies chronicled in 'The Secrets of Success' are vital to our well-being. Each page recapitulates the struggles we have endured and the accomplishments yet to be attained." Robert Harris, 5x athlete with football's New York Giants, adds, "The Secrets of Success" is an ingenious book. It's com-

NEW YORK — The Chase Manhattan Bank (NYSE: CMB) announced today that it has launched a new program to expand access to credit for small businesses in under served areas through experienced community-based loan funds known as Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). This new program, entitled Community Business Partners, allows CDFIs to participate in business loans originated by the Chase Community Development Group.

The Community Business Partners program is designed to provide increased access to capital and business development support for small, traditionally under-served minority and women-owned businesses, or those located in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, while enhancing the lending capacity of community development loan funds.

The Community Business Partners program continues Chase's commitment to improve financial services and expand access to credit in some of the most distressed neighborhoods in the country. Under this program, Chase will work with strong community-based economic development organizations to help create positive outcomes for small businesses by combining much needed capital and technical assistance," said Carol Parsy, Executive Vice President of The Chase Manhattan Bank.

During the past few years, Chase has initiated several similar programs that help community development organizations create and expand their small business loan funds. Other programs include: Loans-to-Lenders, the Loan Purchase Program, and support for the Credit Institute for Economic Development.

These loan funds have provided access to credit to hundreds of small business borrowers that would not qualify for traditional bank financing.

"This is an innovative partnership that not only reaches out to our traditionally more risky borrowers, but also helps our loan fund to operate more efficiently," said Julio Cohen, President, Renaissance Economic Development Corporation and member of Chase's Community Advisory Board. "As a CDFI, I appreciate being invited to participate in this pilot program."

Said Donna Werthebach, President of Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF), "Through the Community Business Partners program network Chase is helping community development groups like CEDF use our limited capital more efficiently and target our technical assistance more effectively."

Community Business Partners is being introduced on a pilot basis to experienced community-based loan funds. Eligible loans under the program will be term loans, typically from \$20,000 to \$100,000 with terms from three to seven years, priced at market.

Chase Community Development Group does small business lending through a special purpose unit whose mission is to provide credit to minority- and women-owned businesses and to those businesses located in low- or moderate income communities that would otherwise not qualify for traditional loans. Since its inception in 1992, the Community Development Group has originated more than \$67 million in small business loans to 700 borrowers under its unique lending programs and flexible lending guidelines.

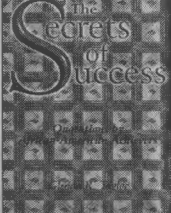
In January 1998 for its second consecutive year, Chase was awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) highest lender award, the Pinnacle Award, which recognizes the lending institution that has made the greatest number of SBA loans in a given year. Additionally, Chase has received the Pacesetter Award for excellence in lending to minority and women-owned businesses for two consecutive years.

In 1997, the second year of a five-year \$81 billion community investment commitment, the Chase Manhattan Corporation provided over \$5 billion in community investments nationwide. Results from the first two years of the commitment total more than \$9.85 billion.

The initial group of participating community development loan funds are: Connecticut - Community Economic Development Fund and New Haven Community Investment Corp.; New Jersey - New Community Development Corporation, New Jersey Community Loan Fund, and Union County Economic Development Corporation.

New York - Community Development Corporation of Long Island, Credit Inc., Greater Jamaica Local Development Corporation, Regional Economic Development Assistance Corporation, Renaissance Economic Development Corporation, and Rural Opportunities Enterprise Center Inc.

Chase is a leading provider of financial solutions to individuals and small businesses, large corporations and government entities. Chase, with over \$500 billion in assets, has relationships with more than 30 million consumers coast to coast. Chase can be reached on the Web at www.chase.com.



Glenda Taylor Author



Glenda Taylor

icant, young and old, male and female. "The African in America has a unique story of triumph, of overcoming centuries of brutality. If the African-American can triumph over the overt institutionalized, legalized racism, prejudice and oppression that has occurred, then anyone who understands their secrets - how they did it - can achieve."

Taylor, a woman of immense force, for no obvious reason, won't allow herself to be pinned down when it comes to future projects. When pressed for a response, she simply smiles and says, "I can only tell you two things: it's a secret and it will be successful."

MATH'S POWER

Lila Richardson, Esq., of the Magic Johnson Management Group says, "the various ideologies chronicled in 'The Secrets of Success' are vital to our well-being. Each page recapitulates the struggles we have endured and the accomplishments yet to be attained." Robert Harris, 5x athlete with football's New York Giants, adds, "The Secrets of Success" is an ingenious book. It's com-

Loaning money to relatives

Dale G. Caldwell

Loans between family members are commonplace. For many people the only way that they can purchase a house, buy a car or go to school is to get a loan from a family member. However, too often, these loans are treated like gifts (they are not repaid). These unpaid loans can put a financial and emotional strain on the person who was nice enough to provide the loan. They therefore cause many people more emotional turmoil than all of their other investments combined. I am frequently asked for my opinion about loans between family members. My typical response is that they are okay to do if the parameters of the loan are agreed to on paper before the loan is made. In this column I discuss how to minimize the potential for problems loans between family members.

Loans from parents or grandparents play an important role in the financial lives of many people. Likewise, loans from children can help parents get over financial hurdles. Some of the more common types of loans between relatives include loans to:

- Pay college or graduate school tuition
- Help children buy their first home
- Pay for a wedding
- Buy a car
- Pay for hospital bills
- Pay overdue bills
- Pay for a retirement

Unfortunately, one of the major reasons that problems arise when money is transferred from one relative to another is that it is not clear whether the money is a loan or a gift. Therefore, step one in any family monetary transfer is to make it perfectly clear whether the money is a loan or a gift. If the money transfer is a gift then you don't need to put anything on paper. However, if you expect the money transfer to be paid back then the transaction is a loan. This is true whether or not you expect the person receiving the loan to pay interest. The best way to handle a loan is to put the terms of the loan on paper. This may sound complicated but it is not. Most office supply chains have standard loan papers already prepared. All you have to do is purchase these papers, complete them and have all parties to the transaction sign them.

You may think that drawing up loan papers between relatives is very impersonal. However, this formality is an essential step in minimizing the problems that arise with loans between relatives. Formal papers make it very clear that the money transfer is a loan that should be repaid on the terms listed on the agreement. Too often, relatives receive a loan and treat it like a gift. The relative loaning the money frequently becomes resentful or angry at the person who received the loan for not treating it like any other debt. Many family feuds started because one family member did not pay back a loan provided by another family member.

The loan papers should clearly outline the amount of the loan, the interest (if any), when it should be paid back in full and the monthly (or other frequency) pay back terms. The papers should also indicate what happens if the terms are violated. Frequently, the person borrowing money does not have the money to pay back the loan on the terms specified in the agreement. To deal with this some agreements will include ways in which someone can pay back the loan through in-kind services. For example, a value can be attached to cleaning the house of the person who made the loan. This or other services can serve as a payment on the loan.

In summary, there are two things that you should do to minimize the pain of borrowing from or lending money to relatives. First, whether you are thinking about giving a family member a loan or are considering asking a family member for a loan, you should insist that the terms of the loan are agreed to on paper before hand. Second, if there are any sudden changes in your financial situation and you cannot pay the loan back on time or you need the loan paid back sooner than you planned you should communicate this with the other family member(s) involved with the loan.

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*Packaged Facts is a product of FIDNVSF Research Publications Group

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Minority Business Journal



Minority Business Journal

The Minority Business Journal is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. MBJ regularly features the accomplishments of minority and women businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding businesses, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses. MBJ offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. MBJ provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority communities.

Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The Directory networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and woman-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

Call (908) 754-3400 for more information

Minority Business Journal & Minority Business to Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

HeartBeat

January 20 • January 26, 1999

Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation, The New Jersey State Bar Association Elder Law Section and the AARC of New Jersey will sponsor a free public seminar highlighting developmental disabilities and will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Convent Square (732) 637-7516.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

PISCATAWAY — Vita Services Inc. and the Mullenberg Regional Medical Center will host an exhibit on African American doctors and health professionals at the hospital's conference room beginning at 11 a.m. (732) 483-8719.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital in conjunction with the Teaneck Department of Health and Human Services will offer a free Blood Pressure Screening from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (201) 837-1850.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a sibling preparation class for children ages three to seven at the hospital auditorium beginning at 11 a.m. (732) 937-8820.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

CRANFORD — The Mental Health Association in New Jersey will offer free training to deal with the conflict of mental health being held at the Cranford United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 744-2500.

BELLEVIEW — The Women's Health Center at Clara Maass, in cooperation with Berlex Laboratories, hosts a free monthly support group for women experiencing menopause. The Menopause Awareness and Support Group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Women's Health Center at Clara Maass, located on the lobby level of the Clara Maass Continuing Care Center at Bellevue.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will hold a discussion on nursing homes and nursing placement beginning at 12 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital will offer a support group for those suffering from balance disorders at the health service building beginning at 7 p.m. (201) 833-7212.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

GREENBROOK — The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home beginning at 4 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for those who suffered from a stroke at the hospital's auditorium 12:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will discuss home health care for senior citizens in the 21st century beginning at 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

JERSEY CITY — Liberty Health Care System will offer a 13 week training course in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at Meadowlands Hospital beginning at 10 p.m. (201) 324-5000.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

MONTGOMERY — The Carier Foundation will hold a discussion on depression and substance abuse at Anderson Amphitheater at the Carier Foundation in Belle Mead beginning at 1 p.m. (908) 281-1461.

Correction

The top story in last week's edition incorrectly featured the photo of Dr. Angela Diaz of Mt. Sinai, as the photo for the Red Ribbon Week.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

If you have any questions or any problems with what you see call CITY NEWS at 908-754-3400

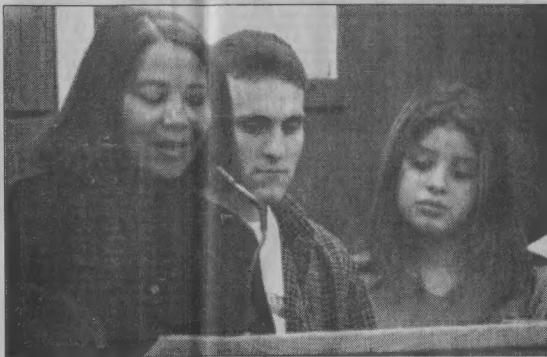
From patient to director

Dr. Angela Diaz presides over the 30th Anniversary of the Nation's Largest Adolescent Health Center

NEW YORK — Two decades ago, Angela Diaz was an immigrant from the Dominican Republic seeking health care in her adopted home of New York City. Living in the South Bronx, she was poor and did not have the insurance that would enable her to visit a hospital of her choice. With few alternatives, she visited the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center which is part of the Mount Sinai Medical Center on E. 100th St. There, she received quality adolescent-sensitive care that did not cost her a penny. A young Angela Diaz became a determined woman, a focused college student, and a medical student with a mission.

Dr. Diaz now presides over the 30th Anniversary of Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center as its Director and as the Vice Chair of Pediatrics for the entire hospital. Dr. Diaz worked her way out of her situation two decades ago to become one of the highest ranked women of color in hospital administration in this country. "I never forgot what it was like to know that there was someone for me to go to when I was worried and confused," explains Dr. Diaz. "I wanted to do my part to ensure that every teenager in this city has the same opportunity."

Mayor Giuliani officially declared Dec. 3rd "Adolescent Health Day" in honor of the 30th Anniversary of Mt. Sinai. The Adolescent Health Center is the largest center in the nation providing comprehensive health care to adolescents, ages 10-21. "It is hoped that the Mayor's Proclamation will help bring greater attention to the specific health needs of adolescents in New York City and throughout the Nation."



Angela Diaz, AHC Director far left discusses the success of the Adolescent Health Center at Mount Sinai Hospital

Under her leadership, the center has also instituted several award-winning programs that have focused on smoking, substance abuse, HIV prevention, teen depression, reproductive healthcare and pregnancy prevention. Dr. Diaz was named Pediatrician of the Year and has received the Harlem

Community Service Award, a White House Fellowship and the National Hispanic Woman's Leadership Award. "I look back over these years and I appreciate all of the recognition given to me," says Dr. Diaz. "But my real motivation is the hope that by returning the same service once given to me, our young people will grow up healthy and do even greater things for their own communities."

are guaranteed high quality, comprehensive and confidential services that are adolescent-sensitive and are available regardless of their ability to pay.

Throughout the process of Dr. Diaz's cardiac and renal transplant coordinators helped him to prepare, then recover, from his surgery. Zafar now has a second chance at life with his wife and 9-year-old daughter. "Before my transplant I felt miserable. Just lying down made me feel tired," he says. "Today, I feel great. I am up and around. It is a miracle."

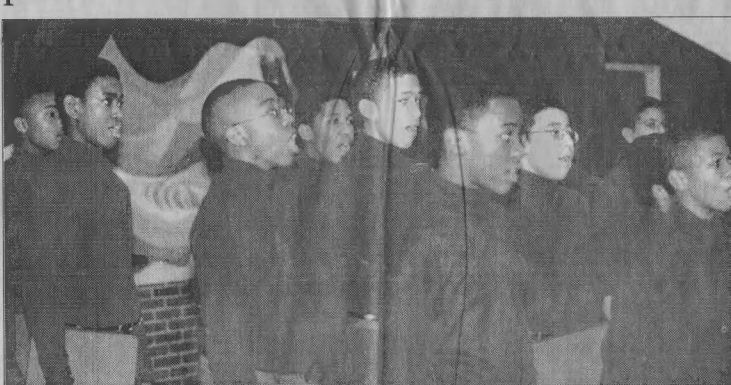
In October at Newark Beth Israel, Craig R. Saunders, M.D., chairman of cardiology at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, performed seven bypasses on one patient with the heart still beating. Saunders was the first surgeon on the entire East Coast and only the second in the country to perform this type of heart surgery. Saunders performed the seven bypasses without using a heart-lung machine, a method that allows the patient to awaken sooner and more alert after their surgery, and reduces the risk of post-operative complications. According to Saunders, beating-heart surgery is appropriate for younger, healthier patients because of shorter recovery time, reduced risk, and less trauma for older patients. It is appropriate because there are no more possible complications that would rule out conventional bypass.

The patient, 80-year-old Ethel Laubach of Nutley, suffered a mild heart attack on Oct. 11 and was referred to Saunders for bypass surgery. With special instruments Saunders performed the seven bypasses without using a heart-lung machine, a method that allows the patient to awaken sooner and more alert after their surgery, and reduces the risk of post-operative complications. According to Saunders, beating-heart surgery is appropriate for younger, healthier patients because of shorter recovery time, reduced risk, and less trauma for older patients. It is appropriate because there are no more possible complications that would rule out conventional bypass.

Cardiothoracic surgeons at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center have performed beating heart surgery before and there is a growing interest to use this procedure. That is good news for people like Laubach, who enjoys a very active lifestyle that includes swimming twice a week at the YWCA, gardening, church activities and walking at the mall. She says she is grateful for Saunders' expertise. "When you have a good doctor like Saunders, you can put all of your faith in him," Laubach said. "I was never afraid. I knew everything would work out fine."

Finally, The Inner-City Cardiac Health Demonstration Project, officially approved in December, will strengthen the already established cardiac services at the Center.

Newark Boys Chorus spreads cheer to patients at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



Newark — The world renowned Newark Boys Chorus recently made a special visit to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. Under the direction of Donald Morris, the chorus spread lots of cheer to patients and staff as they graciously sang some holiday favorites. The chorus' performance was part of a special holiday luncheon sponsored by Cardiologist Trevor Atterley, M.D.

Norwood Bill: New packaging same old, bad prescription

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warned that a health care proposal sponsored by Rep. and CEO Thomas J. Donohue. "It does nothing to address the three fundamental issues for improvement: access, affordability, and quality."

He added, "Businesses across the board have been telling us that if medical costs go up dramatically, they may have to pull the plug on health care coverage. For many small businesses, a modest increase in costs could mean the difference between some coverage or none at all."

The bill, "Access to Quality Care Act," would place businesses in a chokehold of red tape through new federal mandates and expanded liability that would impact an employer's ability to provide health care.

"This liability expansion creates a free-for-all for trial lawyers while

doing nothing to improve health care access and quality," Donohue said. "Unfortunately, this well-intentioned effort adds massive costs by opening companies up to being sued."

According to a health care poll conducted last year by the Chamber's flagship publication, "Nation's Business," two-thirds (67%) of survey respondents said they would terminate employee health coverage if Congress approves legislation making employers liable for medical malpractice lawsuits. Furthermore, 84% of survey respondents said that higher health insurance premiums would affect their company's willingness to provide medical benefits.

"Clearly, we must rethink this proposal and focus on ways to hold health care costs in line," said Donohue. "America doesn't need a health care plan run by the federal government. Instead, we need greater competition and more market-based incentives in the system and better access to quality care." The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector and region.

Long term care program receives NJ grant for \$80,000

TRENTON — The Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly announced it has received an \$80,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey to pilot an initiative designed to improve the quality of comfort care and pain management in institutional long term care settings by teaching staff members the principles and tools of palliative care.

Ten nursing homes in Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Warren counties will be selected for participation in the pilot. The project will train four-member palliative care teams within each facility to provide options and infrastructures for long term care residents to receive excellent comfort care and hospice services at appropriate within the nursing home.

Nursing home representatives from the areas were recently invited to learn more about the pilot at a kickoff event at the Alex Aidenman and Cooper Health Systems.

"Our goal is to foster a fundamental shift in thinking and practices among long term care professionals by de-mystifying management within the nursing home setting," said Kelly.

"We believe that residents deserve the right to live and die as they choose in their own home — even if that is a nursing home. No one should have to transfer out of a nursing home to receive good comfort care, pain management and hospice care."

Kelly said the project will be completed at the end of 1999 and training will emphasize the clinical, psychosocial and spiritual issues and tools related to palliative care and pain management. The project is a collaborative effort between the Office of the Ombudsman and Cooper Health Systems.

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Newark Beth Israel marks 3 medical milestones

NEWARK — Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, was the site of three recent medical milestones that will have long-term, positive effects for patients. New Jersey's first successful combined heart and kidney transplant, the first septuple "beating heart" bypass operation ever to be performed on the entire East Coast, and the approval of the Inner-City Cardiac Health Demonstration Project are three major events at Newark Beth Israel that are changing the way health care is delivered to people who live in this community and throughout the state.

In September, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center became the first hospital in New Jersey to successfully perform a simultaneous heart and kidney transplant. The patient, 59-year-old Nazir Zafar of Newark, underwent the life-saving transplant surgery on Sept. 2 and was resting comfortably at home less than three weeks later.

Nationally only 121 combined heart-kidney transplants have been done in the United States in the last 10 years, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the agency that allocates organs and coordinates the transplant waiting list on behalf of the federal government.

Throughout the process, Dr. Zafar's cardiac and renal transplant coordinators helped him to prepare, then recover, from his surgery. Zafar now has a second chance at life with his wife and 9-year-old daughter. "Before my transplant I felt miserable. Just lying down made me feel tired," he says. "Today, I feel great. I am up and around. It is a miracle."

In October at Newark Beth Israel, Craig R. Saunders, M.D., chairman of cardiology at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, performed seven bypasses on one patient with the heart still beating. Saunders was the first surgeon on the entire East Coast and only the second in the country to perform this type of heart surgery. Saunders performed the seven bypasses without using a heart-lung machine, a method that allows the patient to awaken sooner and more alert after their surgery, and reduces the risk of post-operative complications. According to Saunders, beating-heart surgery is appropriate for younger, healthier patients because of shorter recovery time, reduced risk, and less trauma for older patients. It is appropriate because there are no more possible complications that would rule out conventional bypass.

The patient, 80-year-old Ethel Laubach of Nutley, suffered a mild heart attack on Oct. 11 and was referred to Saunders for bypass surgery. With special instruments Saunders performed the seven bypasses without using a heart-lung machine, a method that allows the patient to awaken sooner and more alert after their surgery, and reduces the risk of post-operative complications. According to Saunders, beating-heart surgery is appropriate for younger, healthier patients because of shorter recovery time, reduced risk, and less trauma for older patients. It is appropriate because there are no more possible complications that would rule out conventional bypass.

Cardiothoracic surgeons at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center have performed beating heart surgery before and there is a growing interest to use this procedure. That is good news for people like Laubach, who enjoys a very active lifestyle that includes swimming twice a week at the YWCA, gardening, church activities and walking at the mall. She says she is grateful for Saunders' expertise. "When you have a good doctor like Saunders, you can put all of your faith in him," Laubach said. "I was never afraid. I knew everything would work out fine."

Finally, The Inner-City Cardiac Health Demonstration Project, officially approved in December, will strengthen the already established cardiac services at the Center.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

PLAINFIELD — Poetry at Plainfield Public Library — 8th Street at Park Ave. 8:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for information call (908) 757-1111.

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Museum presents a film on the history of the Holocaust beginning 12 p.m. (908) 292-5444.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

NEW YORK — The Austrian Cultural Institute presents Maria Theresia Lischauer beginning at 10 a.m. (212) 759-5165.

NEWARK — The Newark Museum presents the planetarium exhibit *Destination Mars* beginning at 5 p.m. (973) 596-9838.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

NEW YORK — The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Henry Street Settlement Abroad Arts Center presents the play *Frédéric Dauterive* beginning at 7:30 p.m. (212) 588-0400.

NEW YORK — The Morris-Janet Mansion and Parlor Entertainment presents the play *Theater at the Shore* beginning at 2 p.m. (212) 923-8008.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW YORK — John Grimsdell and Ashton Springer presents the play *Rollin on the T.O.B.A.* at the 47th Street Theater. Call (212) 231-6361 for time.

NEW YORK — The Knickerbocker Bar & Grill presents bassist Sean Smith and pianist Billy Charap beginning at 9 p.m. (212) 628-8498.

NEW BRUNSWICK — In conjunction with the United Way and Experiences Women's Lecture Series the State Theater will sponsor "Meet the celebrity" VIP Reception as a special event fund-raiser. Nobel Prize winner for Literature and author of Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Beloved* now a motion picture starring Oprah Winfrey at 7:30 p.m. (732) 247-7200.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents a film program exploring Duke Ellington's relationship with the silver screen beginning at 7 p.m. (212) 721-6500.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

RARITAN — The Raritan Valley Community College Art Gallery presents an art exhibit featuring the works of black artists beginning at 6 p.m. (908) 218-6876.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

PURCHASE, NY — The Neuberger Music Center of Art presents Violinist David Geringer beginning at 8 p.m. (914) 251-0100.

Scoop Du Jour

It takes courage, boo-proof posture and strong mental mettle to make a singer dare to deliver *Damn Right* away's "I'll Love You More Than You'll Ever Know" in front of an uncompromising audience, but not value is what allowed Kenny Latimore to exit New York City's Bowery Ballroom unscathed.

For almost two hours, which could seem like years in actual stage time if a singer's slippin' on their attention-grabbin' game, Latimore sang selections from *The Soul of Man* as if his property hit notes might free U.S. political prisoners in Vietnam. "Singing is therapeutic to me," says Latimore, whose top priority at Colina Gayle, Tony Rice and Mark Redguard's Caribbean-owned and operated artist management company. "People will know what kind of man Kenny is on this album. They'll know what I've been through in relationships with women who've been special in my life," he says cautiously careful not to mention any former flames by name.

The octave-jumping balladeer, confidently clad in a black tux on black ensemble on this evening, says that music has been his passion for as long as he can remember. "With my music, I first try to remain respectful to the past. Then I try to make music that helps men validate or explain the way they feel," he explains slowly in paint by number fashion. "Now see, if I use TV as my only source of information about how men should deal with problems, I wouldn't have a clue. I come from real life experiences that me and my friends have had. We're not all rocks. We're complex human beings."

Inner complexity notwithstanding,

Documentary Celebrates the History Of America's Black Newspapers

NEW YORK — "The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords," is an engaging historical account that tells the story of the pioneering men and women of the Black press who gave voice to Black America. The film will have its television broadcast premiere on Feb. 8, 1999, (check local listings) on PBS as part of its celebration of Black History month. In addition to the television broadcast, the "Soldiers Without Swords," has been accepted into the prestigious 1999 Sundance Film Festival in the documentary category.

"Soldiers Without Swords," is the first documentary to provide an in-depth examination of the history and contributions of African American newspapers. Since the early 1800's Black newspapers have existed in almost every major city in the U.S. "I was looking through black newspapers while researching two other historical documentaries," says multi-award winning filmmaker, Stanley Nelson. "I was both excited and overwhelmed by the volume of research materials that laid before me. I realized then that Black newspapers were fascinating in themselves and told their own story."

Collectively, these papers contain the most detailed record of African

American life in existence.

Nelson, who also produced two other award-winning films, *Two Dollars and a Dream: The Story of Madame C. J. Walker*, about the first self-made African American businesswoman to become a millionaire, and *Freedom Bags*, about the northern migration by African American domestic workers.

Several of the key reporters, publishers and photo journalists are interviewed in the film, shortly before their deaths. Nelson conducted one of the last on camera interviews with John Sengstacke, publisher of the only daily Black newspaper still in production, the Chicago Defender, and with the late Charles "Teenie" Harris, retired staff photographer with the Pittsburgh Courier. Other prominent Black journalists interviewed are Vernon Jarrett, former reporter with Chicago Defender, Chicago Tribune, and the Chicago Sun Times and Edward "Abe" Robinson, former reporter with the California Eagle.

From facilitating the migration of Southern Blacks to northern cities to recording the social and political events affecting the lives of African Americans; to providing a voice for honoring Black soldiers in World War II, the Black press documented life for



A man pores over the latest edition of the Pittsburgh Courier

millions of people that were otherwise ignored. "Soldiers Without Swords" gives life to this fascinating, little known history by weaving music by

Grammy award-winning jazz artist Ron Carter with archival footage, photographs and interviews with editors,

photographers and journalists of the Black press. The film is narrated by stage, screen and television actor Joe Morton.

From 1900 to 1910, black newspapers employed hundreds of African Americans as lithographers, pressmen and typographers

A new play on the 'Greatest' comes to New Brunswick.

NEW BRUNSWICK — One of this century's most fascinating and enigmatic men — former heavyweight boxing champion and world-figure Muhammad Ali — the subject of the new play "Ali," by Geoffrey Ewing and Graydon Royce, presented by the Crossroads Theater Company Jan. 28 through March 7, 1999.

"Ali," preview performances begin Thurs., Jan. 28; Media night is Wed., Feb. 3; opening night is Feb. 4. Tickets are on sale now.

This New Jersey premiere of "Ali," is directed by Woodie King, Jr., founding and producing director of New York's esteemed New Federal Theatre. The cast of "Ali," features Broadway veteran actor Charles Brown as Muhammad Ali in his later years, and Lloyd Goodman as the younger Ali.

Crossroads Theater Company's production of "Ali" coincides with Black History Month in February, and will no doubt be one of the theatrical highlights of Black History Month in the tri-state area.

Crossroads' production of "Ali" during Black History Month is, indeed, most appropriate: the Crossroads Theater Company, itself, has been a champion of African-American playwrights and writers from around the world since the company was founded in 1978, including the world-premieres of "The Colored Museum" and "Spunk"

by George C. Wolfe, and works by Ntozake Shange, August Wilson, Leslie Lee, Pearl Cleage, Ruby Dee, Rita Dove and Verne Bagnert.

Now in its 20th season with Ricardo Rhan as Artistic Director, Crossroads Theater has presented some of the most challenging and entertaining theatre of the time in the U.S., and has having developed a reputation as the country's pre-eminent African American theatre. Keryl McCord is Crossroads' Managing Director.

"Ali" encompasses celebrated and little-known episodes from the beloved boxer's legendary life both in and out of the ring, from his unlikely rise to international fame as the young Cassius Clay, to his controversial political views and religious transformation as Muhammad Ali, to his colorful wit and bravado. Not to mention his widely-publicized run-in with the U.S. Army.

Conceived by Geoffrey Ewing (who has himself previously produced and co-written the play's title role), and co-written by Mr. Ewing and Graydon Royce, "Ali" has been performed previously in London, New York, and Atlanta during the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival.

"Ali" earned a coveted Obie Award and Audelco Award for Excellence in Black Theater for its co-author and solo performer Geoffrey Ewing when the play had an frequently-extended engagement Off-Broadway



Muhammad Ali

on Theater Row in New York in 1992-93. Ewing is a founding member of the Mixed Blood Theater in Minneapolis, a company dedicated to the concept of color-blind casting. Royce is a feature editor and writer with the Star Tribune newspaper in Minneapolis, where he also works as a playwright, having written and performed the one-man play *The Revelations of Luther Ben-Vai* based on Branch Davidian leader David Koresh.

A living legend in African American theater in New York, director King Jr. is the founder and producing director of the New Federal Theater, which

has presented over 150 productions in its 24-year history. His numerous credits as producer include *Medal Of Honor* (RSC Off-Broadway and *For Colored Girls* on Broadway. His extensive work as a director includes *Checkmates* (NAACP Image Award) on Broadway and around the U.S., "God's Trombones," "Joe Turner's Come And Gone," and "A Raisin In The Sun."

Scheduled through March 7, "Ali," will be performed Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 8 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m., with added matinee performances Feb. 11, 17, 24, 25 and March 3 and 4 at 11 a.m.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEWARK — Bethel Baptist Church will hold bible study beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 842-4817.

SUMMIT — Oratory Catholic Church will hold evening bible study beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 275-1084.

MONTCLAIR — Immaculate Conception Church will hold prayer services beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 590-1111

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

ELIZABETH — Mount Zion Pentecostal Church will hold a group prayer for recovering addicts beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 351-2170

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

EAST ORANGE — Our Lady Christian Catholic Church presents a youth revival service beginning at 7 p.m.

CARD OF THANKS

We the Schenck and Jackson families thank you for your prayers and support during the illness and subsequent Homage of Rev. Phyllis R. Schenck. We sincerely acknowledge all acts of kindness, the outpouring of love and concern bestowed upon us. We appreciate everything that has been done to help sustain us in this great loss.

Deeming it impossible to thank everyone personally, we take this means of expressing our deepest appreciation to relatives, friends, neighbors and especially thank the officers and members of the Macdonald Baptist Church, Lakewood, NJ who extended themselves to guests and friends with kindness and thoughtfulness. To the Shiloh Baptist Church and its ministries and auxiliaries, our heartfelt thanks for your expressions of sympathy and support.

A special thank you to the Moderator of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association who served as worship leader with words of comfort. Our thanks and appreciation for the flowers, spiritual bouquets, palmbeers, cars and the James H. Hunt Funeral Home, Ashbury Park, NJ, for the efficient services, the Seacoast Revival choir, musicians, ushers' missionaries and everyone who assisted during and after services. You lifted our spirits and inspired our hearts.

Submitted with Love,

Rev. Gerald A. Schenck, Sr.
and family
Rev. Reginald F. Jackson
and family

Deion Sanders's hot autobiography helps build youth center in Dallas

DALLAS — While Deion "Prime Time" Sanders' book, "Power, Money & Sex: How Success Almost Ruined My Life," ascends to number six on "The Sports Pages," and number seven on the Christian Bookstore Association's bestseller lists, he is also staging a personal offense of the field. The Dallas Cowboys' star cornerback is passing all book royalties to help build a 140,000-square-foot youth center at the City of Refuge-a social services Mecca sponsored by the Potter's House church in Dallas.

These days "Prime Time" stands for the Bible study Sanders leads on Tuesday nights, attended by some 300 of the faithful and the curious. Sanders continues to emerge as a spiritual leader for his teammates-holding locker room Bible studies and encouraging them in the faith.

Putting money where his mouth is, Sanders is also standing up for kids. In April 1998, he demonstrated his commitment to Dallas inner-city youth with a check for \$1 million to help build a place where kids can grow in academics, sports and knowledge of God. The first installment of \$1 million represented the entire publisher's advance for Sanders' new autobiography and a personal donation from Sanders. The ongoing influx of royalties continues to add to Sanders' impact.

Although he is only a recent convert to Christianity, the man formerly associated with beautiful women, blinding jewelry, and end zone antics is using his bully pulpit full time now to model a new brand of leadership. It's been more than a year since Bishop T. D. Jakes baptized Sanders at the Potter's House church in Dallas — along with Cowboys

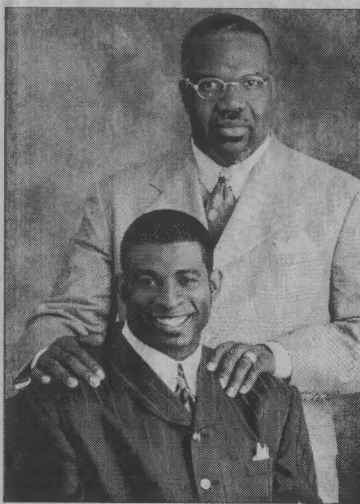
Emmitt Smith, Omar Stoutinme and George Hegeman — and evidence suggests Sanders' faith is the real thing. Testimates report a growing "contentedness" in Prime Time. Coaches say Sanders is a strong factor in the team's increasing solidarity.

More than 200,000 copies of "Power, Money and Sex," are in circulation; the new book is telling kids and reminding adults that hard work and talent can't guarantee peace — but that God can. Moving through sports highs and personal lows, Sanders uncovers the private desperation that led to near-suicide. Sports fans of all ages-and anyone curious about the backstage of fame-will appreciate the candor and ongoing transformation of one of this century's finest athletes.

"After scoring touchdowns and dancing in the end zone, after a stadium full of cheering fans had finally gone home, I was still empty inside," Sanders writes. The Prime Time persona had taken over. "That's probably one of the reasons that [my wife] and I got a divorce, because she never really knew me. She knew Prime Time, and I think that's who she really loved — I lights, the glitter, the spectacle."

Sanders is the first to admit that the Christian life is neither smooth nor flawless. But as time goes by, he shows increasing maturity and sleepies have less room for comment.

"I feel now that because of all God has put me through, he must have been preparing me to go places that most people would never go, to speak to and touch some people in arenas that many might never see... I have doubt but He who has done a good work in me will be faithful to complete it in Christ."



Bishop T. D. Jakes and Deion Sanders

Seventh annual spirituality convocation draws thousands

MORRISTOWN — The Seventh Annual Spiritual Convocation, a widely recognized event that gathers up to 7,500 people every year from throughout New Jersey and adjacent states, will take place on Saturday April 17, 1999, at the College of Saint Elizabeth, located at 2 Convent Road.

Early registration is required and registration fee is \$20 dollars. Last year, more than 1,500 people who wished to register were turned away due to lack of space.

The day-long event will feature two keynote addresses, a choice of workshops, and sacred music. It will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist. The Spiritual Convoca-

tion is organized by the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Participants may choose from an extensive list of 35 workshops arranged in three categories under the theme of "Dining With the Faithful of God." The workshops are as varied as the participants. They will range from the mysticism of miracles to the realities of troubled youth from the contributions of Buddhism to the strength of African-American spirituality, and many other topics.

Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., President of Covenant House International, with more than 40 years of experience with troubled

youth will spear, on "God's Kids, Starved for Love." Father Robert Kennedy, a Jesuit who is also a Zen Buddhist, will offer a workshop titled "Zen's Gift to Christianity."

Keynote speaker, Rev. Richard N. Fragaria, Ph.D., is a presbyter of the Diocese of Albany, New York and Associate Professor of Liturgy and Homiletics in Chicago. His keynote address will be "Our Duty and Our Salvation: The Meal of Gratitude," a call to give thanks for gifts offered.

Megan McKenna, second keynote speaker, is an author, theologian with a doctorate in Scripture, Liberation Theology and Adult Edu-

cation and Literacy. McKenna's keynote address is titled, "I Have Longed to Eat This Meal With You," an analysis of Christ's words with people through difficult times.

The Convocation will feature Jeanne Cotter, a liturgical musician, successful secular performer and recording artist, before and after keynote addresses. Cotter has won the hearts of listeners throughout the United States and Canada with her unique style of storytelling, song writing and piano performance.

For a complete schedule, registration and information contact the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at (973) 290-4300/4364.

You are a role model

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

We hear so much talk about role models these days, but have you wondered what exactly a role model is? Webster's New World Dictionary defines the term as: "A person to observe or inspire in some social role, job, etc. as to be a model for others."

It's interesting that dictionary writers used the words "effective" and "inspiring" to describe a role model. The colloquial use of the term usually refers to inspirational or praiseworthy ways to do a thing or behave in an exemplary manner. The fact of the matter is people can and do model values, attitudes and behaviors that are far from honorable. For example, a child living in a neighborhood where drug dealers prostitute their wives in cars and dress in expensive clothing might aspire to be like them, or one who grows up in a home with an alcoholic or drug addicted parent sees that adult consistently and effectively, in a negative connotation.

What type of role model are you? How do you carry yourself? How do you react under pressure or respond to life's myriad challenges? What attitudes and behaviors do you model? You never know who is watching and appraising your every move. You never know what child or adult admires you from afar or wants to be just like you someday. What, by your attitudes, words and deeds are you teaching anyone watching you about how to live effectively and successfully? What are you demonstrating about how to handle life's problems or employment self-confidence and self-respect in your daily activities?

They say children are natural imitators. We know that they often mimic what they see on television, in the movies or the video. We also know that the home environment grows up in it is extremely important. What you model in your attitudes and perspectives on life. What they see and hear at home from adults leaves a lasting impression, an indelible image in their psyche. A child who grows up in a supportive environment learns it's okay to be nurturing and encouraging. Those who grow up in an abusive environment experience the trauma and after shocks of abuse regardless of if it is directed at them or not. Chances are they will be abusive later in life because they believe abuse is an appropriate way to handle situations. Or they will think being the target or victim of abuse is normal.

People who grow up in dysfunctional environments tend to think that it is normal unless they have other experiences or information to compare or measure it against. Most people are intelligent and resourceful enough to say, "If this is the way the world operates, I'll learn to fit in, adapt and do what I have to do to survive."

We are all creatures of habit. Habits are attitudinal, emotional, and behavioral patterns we exhibit without conscious thought. They are automatic, we do them without thinking. What habits are you modeling to the world? Do people see and hear you speak out profanity whenever things don't go your way? Do folks see you being disrespectful and insulting toward family members and Black people in general? Do they hear you calling others hurtful, mean or degrading names and terms? Do they see you quitting when things get rough or reacting blindly to circumstances without giving the situation serious, prolonged thought or action to rectifying the conditions? Do they see you in positions of abject dependency begging for things you could — with planning and initiative — create or produce for yourself? Do they see you giving 97 cents out of every dollar that comes through our hands to people who don't look like you, respect you or live in your community?

Ever wonder what impact these counterproductive behaviors have on others? Have you ever gotten, or seen, our nieces, nephews and neighbors feel about us and about themselves based upon the examples we set? Have you ever had a serious assessment of ourselves and the types of behaviors we are modeling? The truth of the matter is that we are all role models. We are in a direct reflection of what we tolerate, allow, create or model, otherwise it would be better.

You may contact Junious Stanton at e-mail address: JRSWriter@aol.com

Faith forum carefully examines faith-based community development

NEWARK — Moral values, mission, commitment, vision, passion, tenacity, partnerships and good business practices were viewed as integral aspects of community building by leaders of successful faith-based community development organizations during a recent public forum "Faith Builds: Foundations in the Community and Beyond."

The program, produced by the Newark-based New Community Corporation (NCC) Community Arts Program, was part of the series Summit Meetings at the Priory sponsored by Summit Bank, which offers lively discussions on urban issues.

Faith-based community development, built on a foundation of moral values, reaches out to serve all people regardless of their religious beliefs. It has become a topic of national interest as public and private funders have looked at the record of achievement compiled by the nation's faith-based development corporations in rebuilding lives and communities.

Featured speakers at the forum were leaders of successful faith-based organizations who represent a broad range of community development experience. Rev. Floyd H. Flake, D.Min., Senior Pastor of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Church, Jamaica, Queens, and former U.S. Representative; Rev. Tracy Lind, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and President of St. Paul's CDC in Paterson; David M. Malach, Assistant Executive Vice President and Director of Community Relations Committee, United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, Whippany; Rev. Debra B. Soares, Jr., D.Min., Chairman, First Baptist Community Development Corporation, Somerset; Community Founder Rev. Magr. William J. Linder, Ph.D., Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish.

The moderator was Rev. Dr. Joan S. Parrot, Community Builder Fellow, serving in Camden as part of a new joint partnership between the US



From left: Rev. Floyd Flake, Rev. Magr. William J. Linder, Rev. Tracy Lind, Rev. Dr. Joan S. Parrot, Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soares, Jr. and David M. Malach. The six leaders recently examined community development efforts of faith-based organizations as part of the summit forum at The Priory in Newark.

Department of Housing and Urban Development and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Rev. Parrot, when she received her call to the ministry in 1987, joined her father and family at the Lighthouse, a community-based project that feeds and ministers to indigent men, women and children daily in Newark. The Lighthouse, she said, "was started on faith and now serves 500 people a day."

Faith-based community development recognizes there is no simple answer and, as a result, CDCs (community development corporations) tend to embrace comprehensive responses in rebuilding communities.

To Rev. Flake there is a responsibility to participate in the process beyond Sunday morning services. He said the church has a responsibility

beyond what we define as "spiritual." That is a holistic involvement in "dressing and keeping" what God has given. As people catch hold of a vision to turn their community around he said a component that cannot be overlooked is commercial growth, what he called the need to "create capital in the Paradise God has given."

Calling CDC work "the public practice of theology," Rev. Lind related the joy that comes when somebody in the neighborhood says you are making a difference. "The journey for St. Paul's CDC, which she said has grown organically, has been to invest what he have: leverage what we have, spin off, and when you are failing, get to know when to stop and try another route."

Throughout the forum, speakers

emphasized the importance of the mission and the full participation and involvement of the people. Rev. Soares said no one is a "client" because everyone is considered a "partner." When First Baptist Church members participated in the planning process to determine "our vision," Rev. Soares said each goal was analyzed not only by identifying resources but by identifying what verse in the Bible justified it. The plans that evolved were not only for the church, but for the neighborhood as well.

The important role of faith-based organizations in advocacy on public policy was considered by Malach to gain strength as "we advocate collectively." Defining an agenda from faith and acting as individuals motivated by a higher authority moves faith-based

organizations to look upon work as a calling, he said. Malach said the value of collective action during public debates on immigration policy. "We have an advantage when we are diverse and can bridge issues," said Malach, currently serves as Chair of the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network.

Msgr. Lind called the community development movement, which grew out of civil rights activism, deeply rooted in religion and sees the CDC movement becoming more global as we take our position as global citizens. He called it a ministry not limited to those who attend our church. He cited in the work of faith based organizations the will to persevere, to postpone rewards, to recognize the struggle, to challenge what people take as a value system and to emphasize self-reliance.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park will receive sealed bids for the upgrading of elevators at the Lumley Homes A&R and Dr. Robinson Towers and replacing of elevators at the above locations as well as Comstock Court. The public bid opening will be held on February 23, 1999 at 1:00 PM at the Modernization Office at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held February 5, 1999 at 10:00 AM at the Modernization Office located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712.

A refundable deposit of \$50.00 payable to The Asbury Park Housing Authority will be required for each set of specs, and plans and may be obtained from the Asbury Park Housing Authority Modernization Office at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue.

(bid floor of 5% is required with your sealed bid. The successful low bidder is required to furnish and pay for performance and Payment Bond in the full amount of the bid. All bids are to be submitted in triplicate (3 sets) all enclosed with original signatures.

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in the bidding process and award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder in the Authority's best interest.

No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the written consent of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park.

We encourage minority business and firms to apply.

Claudia Sweeney
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park

1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
908-753-1036 FAX 908-753-1036

2000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

ADDENDUM
LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park invites the submission of sealed bids for the purchase of the following vehicle: The bid date for opening bids will be Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 10:00 AM.

1. Full size 4 x 6 Pickup, Regular cab with 8' box.

Specifications are available at the Housing Authority Modernization office located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712 and will be issued or mailed at your request. Phone number 732-774-3000 ext. 949.

Vehicle bid should include price, specifications and all options which are included at bid price.

Bids will be received at the Housing Authority office located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712 until 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at which time they will be opened and read. Please submit sealed bids attention modernization office and clearly mark envelopes sealed bids for vehicle.

No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the written consent of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park.

We encourage minority business and firms to apply.

By/Director of Claudia Sweeney
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park

1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
908-753-1036 FAX 908-753-1036

Public Notice Township of Woodbridge Housing Authority Award Professional Contract

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey, has awarded the following contract by Resolution under competitive proposals procedures as more fully described at 24CFR 85.36 and PHF 90-47 and as "Professional Services" were not required to be bid under New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law. The contract and resolutions are available for inspection in the Office of the Executive Director, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095-1725.

Resolution #1343 adopted 1/17/99

Awarded to: William B. O'Neil, C.P.A., 1035 Old Ford Road, Huntington Valley, Pa. 19008

Services: Independent Auditor

Scope: \$1 out of possible 100

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SUPERINTENDENT

We have an opening for a live-in superintendent for our new HUD facility (Covenant Manor) in Plainfield, NJ. The successful candidate will be responsible for custodial tasks, maintaining the building environment in a sanitary and orderly condition, conducting a preventive maintenance program, etc. Special display. Strong people skills are a must. Great opportunity to join a wonderful group of co-workers at NPAC. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send resume to Human Resource, UNHRI, 311 Highway 33, Neptune, NJ 07753, EOE

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TOWNSHIP OF CLARK
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Police Officer - Township of Clark is seeking applicants for the position of Police Officer. Starting salary is \$25,000.00 per year. Applicants must be at least 18 years old as of January 29, 1999, citizens of the United States and residents of Union County. Applicants must also be High School or Vocational High School graduates or possess an approved High School Equivalent Certification. Applications may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Business Administrator, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066. All completed applications must be filed directly with the New Jersey Department of Personnel on or before January 29, 1999. Clark is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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The New Jersey Highway Authority which has operated the Garden State Parkway since 1952 has immediate openings.

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If you have the ability to manage the purchase of a broad spectrum of goods and services utilized by a public/gov't procurement environment, possess a bachelor's degree in a business related field, min. of 5 yrs. exp. purchasing a wide variety of products and services, supervisory level experience, excellent verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills, and a demonstrated ability to work with a diverse group of individuals, this position may be right for you.

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This position requires an ability to develop, communicate and maintain comprehensive safety and health and environmental programs. We seek a candidate with a solid background in ergonomics, noise control, OSHA/PEOSH regulations, excellent communication, positive interpersonal skills and certification as safety professional. Interest parties must possess a bachelor's degree, valid driver's license, the ability to effectively train persons in all area functions at various work locations, knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet applications, and have the ability to professionally manage many tasks under deadline. This position may require emergency "call-out".

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Local girl scout takes it to the hoop in South Carolina

SCOTCH PLAINS — Jasmine Davis of Plainfield, a junior at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains attended the Girl Scouts of the United States Girl Scout Wider Opportunity held at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. In addition to the basketball session where Jasmine was enrolled, the program focused on such other sports as volleyball, tennis, soccer, softball, golf and swimming.

Jasmine, a forward on the Vikings Junior Varsity Team for the last two years and a co-captain last year thought this was a great opportunity to perfect her basketball skills as well as meet some professional players. "I liked everything about the week, especially meeting people from other places in the United States," stated Ms. Davis. While at the camp she was able to see a Professional Woman's Softball Game, attend a clinic and meet some of the female athletes. The girls also attended a Women's National Basketball Game with the Charlotte Sting playing the Phoenix Mercury.

Throughout this week sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the United States, girls from around the country participated in sports seminars, workshops and clinics and then traded SWAPS, which are souvenirs of your town or state. A scholarship packet put together by the Girl Scouts was presented to each participant with the names of colleges and universities offering scholarships to Girl Scouts or Gold Award recipients.

The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recently reported that girls who play sports perform better in school, are less likely to drop out of school, achieve higher standardized test scores, are more likely to attend college, have a more positive body image and exhibit higher levels of self-esteem.

Currently Jasmine is finishing the preliminary work, service projects and requirements necessary to start her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.



Jasmine Davis

Is the Dream dead among our youth

By Jean H. Pierre

It's that time of the year again folks. The time to reflect and celebrate the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The civil-rights leader who fought for equal rights for blacks all across the country will turn 70 this year. Who cares? The man, along with approximately 200,000 friends, marched to Washington D.C. where he gave the now famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. Who cares? The man who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his non-violent initiative in ending segregation in the south. Who cares? Many may be wondering why I'm finishing every achievement of Dr. King's with a "who cares." Unfortunately, this is the view that some New Jersey's Generation X clique have on Dr. King. And none of it looks all that promising. Or does it.

When New Jersey's youth think of Dr. King some see him as a warrior. A renegade. A man who had a purpose in achieving equal treatment for his people. Others see him as they see the Rev. Jesse

Jackson: Someone who says the right thing to please himself (his face on the newspapers) and his counterparts or else. And then there are those who see it as an opportunity to catch up on Jerry Springer and shop for the latest bargains in the mall. That's how Justin Mitchell views it. "Don't take anything away from Dr. King and his achievement, but when we're," said Mitchell, a senior at Montclair High School. "Every time his holiday comes up (11 years since the United States made it an official holiday) what do we do except catch up on some sleep and watch TV. We don't put into motion ways to improve our community and economic outlook. People are not working or looking for work. Killings. So much for believing. Recent stats somewhat proves Justin's claim."

- The unemployment rate for blacks reached 8.2 percent in 1998. For ages 16-19 it reached a record high 27.7 percent. In black males it hit 9 percent.
- About 95 percent of black murder victims are killed by other blacks.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Recent studies show that regardless of race, growing up fatherless is a correct forecast on a child's criminal behavior.

"When I was a kid I watched videos and film on Dr. King and felt inspired," says Jamal El-Hamad, a sophomore at New Jersey Technical Institute (NJIT) in Newark. "Race still plays a factor in every part of society. It makes me wonder whether we have a chance in the millennium." Kyle Johnson, a freshman at

Rutgers University in Newark, thinks Dr. King was the 'Jesse' (Rev. Jesse Jackson) of that time. "Dr. King talked a good game back then about integration and ending racial harmony," said Johnson. "Men like Jackson and NAACP President Kwesi Mfume are still fighting for a hand out and trying hard to be liked by everyone. Same leaders."

However true or not, the work of Dr. King can't be undermined. "He stood out there when no one would dare try at that time," said Shantel Givins, a marketing major at Bloomfield College. "The recent elections showed a large turnout by blacks in the voting polls, something which wasn't done in Dr. King's time." Michael Thompson, a history student at Montclair State University, sees his achievement as a stepping stone for many to follow. "In the '50s and '60s, what they've thought of a black person on the Supreme Court, going to space, a joint chief, or running for president. I know my grandparents didn't," says Thompson. "We've made important strides in the 20th Century, but we got a long way to go."

Local economist to appear this week on PBS



Steve Adubato(left) and economic analyst Richard Roper.

BLOOMFIELD — Richard Roper, a Maplewood resident and economic analyst, joins Emmy Award-winning anchor Steve Adubato this week on premier of "New Jersey The New Century," a Caucas: New Jersey special presentation.

"New Jersey The New Century" is a multi-part series focusing on the technological, social, economic and political trends that New Jersey will confront in the years ahead. The premier program looks at the future of our economy.

"New Jersey The New Century explores the key challenges and opportunities that will carry the Garden State into the 21st century," said Executive

Producer Steve Adubato. "This is the time to evaluate our lives, assess our past, and project our future."

Mr. Roper heads up a task force to help direct Newark into the 21st New Century. The New Century is made possible through grants from the Health Care Institute of New Jersey, The Fund for New Jersey, First Union National Bank, New Jersey Resources Corporation, The CITI Group, Inc., United Water Resources, and Johnson & Johnson.

The program will air on Thir-tosevenNET on Jan. 23, at 12:30 a.m. and on Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. NN-Public Television will air the program on Jan. 23, at 7:30 a.m. and on Jan. 24 at 10:00 a.m.

New Jersey cracking down on auto theft

ELIZABETH — Capping one of its busiest months to date, the Essex Union Auto Theft Task Force recovered 57 stolen motor vehicles in December and brought the total number of car thieves caught for last year up to 250 persons.

Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan said since Jan. 1, 1997, the detectives and police officers assigned to the task force recovered a total of 361 cars worth \$4.4 million dollars.

"This has been a banner year for the ATF and the results are in the numbers," said Manahan, pointing out that recovered vehicles not only result in car thieves put behind bars but with significant reductions in losses to the auto insurance companies and thus a benefit to rate-paying motorists.

The prosecutor said the 20 officers assigned to the unit from departments in both counties work throughout the area looking for stolen cars. Municipal police chiefs assign officers for three-month and six-month periods to allow them to gain valuable training and experience while cutting down on car theft. "Since Dec. 19, 1991, when the task force began operation," said Lt. Thomas DeCastro, "The task force has recovered 2,656 stolen cars

worth over \$26 million and arrested 1,592 adult and 786 juvenile suspects from car theft cases."

"One of the things we try to do is safely surround a car with suspects inside, close or box them in to avoid any kind of escape route, and then take down the car and the occupants," said DeCastro, who is commander of the operation.

Cars are typically stolen in Newark, Elizabeth and Irvington, once considered among the highest in the county in terms of stolen cars per capita. The high concentration of effort by the task force has led to a 20 percent reduction during the first six years of its operation, according to Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert P. O'Leary.

Manahan said he has asked police chiefs from across the county to contribute officers to the task force and the Union County Narcotic Strike Force since all 21 towns benefit when drug sales and car thefts are reduced throughout the county.

DeCastro said late model Jeeps, Acuras and BMWs continue to be among the most popular models stolen. Thieves will steal a car to resell, cut into parts for sale, for shipment overseas or just for a mode of transportation, he added.

New Science Center for Newark public schools takes shape

NEWARK — The Benjamin Banneker Science Center, the new science facility for Newark public school students, is gradually taking shape and is due to officially open early this year.

The building, located at 240 Lyons Avenue, is being established as a science resource for students and teachers and is part of the Newark Public Schools Department of Teaching and Learning's science reform plan. The department's Office of Science Education is now based in the building and is overseeing the final stages of renovations at the center, much was originally the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts.

Benjamin Banneker, after whom the center is named, was an African-American mathematician and astronomer who was self-taught and who lived from 1731 to 1806. He invented the first wooden clock and had his almanacs published.

The 40,000 square-foot building is on three floors and has an auditorium for large-scale presentations, a conference room, classrooms, resource rooms for students and teachers, a science laboratory with a room for demonstrations, an all-purpose room and computers in all learning stations. There is also an aerospace center and Starlabs. A professional library, not only for the study of science but for all subjects: has also been housed in the center.

Parts of the building have been painted according to themes which relate to the science curriculum categories of life, physical and Earth. The entrance to the facility has a "science of the seasons; theme and it is presently painted with a snowflake design and has activities relating to snow and ice. The main lobby has been transformed into a rainforest with trees, an aquarium and a working pond containing fish. Lizards, newts' snakes and tarantulas are due to arrive soon.

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